

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 /087 W

-----128408 282031Z /73

O R 282000Z AUG 78

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8779

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJ: SAO PAULO DEMONSTRATIONS PROTEST COST OF LIVING

1. APPROXIMATELY 20,000 PERSONS HELD DEMONSTRATIONS IN AND IN FRONT OF SAO PAULO CATHEDRAL DURING AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 27 TO PROTEST HIGH COST OF LIVING. DEMONSTRATION MARKED COMPLETION OF PETITION REPORTEDLY SIGNED BY 1.3 MILLION PERSONS DEMANDING PRICE FREEZES ON ITEMS OF PRIME NECESSITY AND ACROSS THE BOARD WAGE INCREASES. DEMONSTRATION WAS BY FAR THE LARGEST OF A SERIES WHICH WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD INFREQUENTLY AND WITHOUT MARKED SUCCESS OVER THE PAST MONTHS ON CHURCH PREMISES IN SAO PAULO'S INDUSTRIAL AREA.

2. CHURCH'S POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT: ESTIMATED 7,000 PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH COMMENCED INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL AT 2 O'CLOCK. SPEAKERS INCLUDED LEADERS OF THE "MOVEMENT ON COST OF LIVING" WHO PROTESTED LIVING CONDITIONS AND RISING PRICES. PRESIDENT OF SAO PAULO JOURNALISTS UNION, DAVID DE MORAES, SPOKE OF A GOVERNMENT BAN ON DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE

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CATHEDRAL PLAZA AND AGAINST GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP OF RADIO AND TELEVISION. SESSION WITHIN CATHEDRAL HAD ASPECTS OF POLITICAL RALLY WITH CHANTS OF SLOGANS AND POLITICAL PLACARDS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED. LAST SPEAKER WAS AUXILIARY BISHOP MAURO MORELLI WHO SUBSTITUTED FOR CARDINAL PAULO EVARISTO ARNS, CURRENTLY IN ROME.

3. DEMONSTRATION FOLLOWS CATHEDRAL SESSION: FOLLOWING CLOSURE

OF SESSION WITHIN CATHEDRAL DEPARTURE OF MANY PARTICIPANTS, POLICE MOVED TO DISPERSE CROWDS REMAINING ON THE CATHEDRAL'S STEPS AND IN THE PLAZA. AFTER 5:00 O'CLOCK CROWDS STILL IN AND AROUND PLAZA BEGAN CHANTING "SOLDIERS ARE ALSO EXPLOITED", "UNITED PEOPLE WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED" AND "DOWN WITH THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP". POLICE USED TEAR GAS AND CONCUSSION GRENADES TO DISPERSE THOSE PERSONS WHO REFUSED TO LEAVE. SOME PLAIN CLOTHES POLICE REPORTEDLY ENTERED CATHEDRAL TO CONFISCATE NEWS-PAPERS BEING DISTRIBUTED THERE.

4. POLICE STATEMENT: A POLICE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THERE WERE 13 PERSONS ARRESTED. HE SAID THAT THE POLICE HAD NOT INTERVENED WHILE THE DEMONSTRATION WAS LIMITED TO PROTESTING THE COST OF LIVING BUT DID SO WHEN IT WAS APPARENT THAT PROVOCATEURS HAD INFILTRATED THE DEMONSTRATORS.

5. FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED: THE SAO PAULO STUDENT UNION IS CALLING UPON ALL STUDENTS TO ATTEND A RALLY AUGUST 28 IN FRONT OF THE LAW FACULTY IN DOWNTOWN SAO PAULO. MAJOR "POINTS OF ORDER" ARE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE PERSONS BELONGING TO THE "SOCIALIST CONVERGENCE" AND OF THOSE ARRESTED AUGUST 27, POLITICAL AMNESTY, AND THE TERMINATION OF THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP.

6. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL CAPABLE OF SUPRESSING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CURRENT RASH OF DEMONSTRATIONS WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY SHOULD IT CHOOSE TO DO SO.

7. SEPARATE MESSAGE REPORTS STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AUGUST 26.
POVENMIRE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COST OF LIVING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780351-0702
Format: TEL
From: SAO PAULO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780817/aaaaanzh.tel
Line Count: 100
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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